(b) if so, what is the estimated number thereof and the name of the country to which majority of such persons belong, who came to India on fake passports, during the last three years; and

(c) in what manner Government prevent the entry of persons on fake passports and what action Government will take against the detained persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Activities of ISI in Nepal and Bangladesh

52. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISI has set up a branch office in Kathmandu from where the hijackers boarded the Indian Airlines flight No. IC 814 and that they were clearly helped by the employees of local Pakistani Embassy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ISI is carrying on its activities in Bangladesh also; and

(c) if so, whether the matter was taken up with those Governments and if so, what is their reaction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government is aware of and concerned about Pakistan's Intelligence agency, Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), misusing the territories of Nepal and Bangladesh for activities inimical to India's interests.

Credible reports received by Government reveal the complicity of the Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu in the facilitation of activities inimical to India's interests. These include reports of the assistance received by the hijackers of Indian Airlines flight IC 814 from Pakistani diplomatic personnel based in Kathmandu. This has been

raised by us with the Nepalese Government at an appropriate level and is currently under investigation. The issue relating to the curbing of ISI activities in Nepal has also been taken up at the highest level. India and Nepal have agreed to jointly coordinate measures to prevent the misuse of the open India Nepal border to counter activities directed against India.

Government have also been regularly taking up security related issues including the activities of the ISI, with the Government of Bangladesh at political levels, through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries. Both sides have reconfirmed their resolve not to allow undesirable elements to use their territories for activities prejudicial to the security interests of each other.

Measures to control international terrorism

53. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the threat of international terrorism has increased recently especially after the hijacking of the Indian Airlines Plane from Kathmandu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what measures are being taken to fight this menace with the cooperation of other countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The threat of international terrorism, particularly to safety of civil aviation, continues following the hijacking of Indian Airlines plane from Kathmandu. The Government has actively worked towards building consensus against international terrorism in UN and other international fora. Indian efforts have succeeded in obtaining a decision of the General Assembly to begin negotiations on the Indian draft of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in September 2000. The Security Council have also adopted Resolution 1269 on the